

MINUTES OF THE  
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS  
TRANSPORTATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

September 27, 2001

Maricopa Association of Governments Office  
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200, Saguaro Room  
Phoenix, Arizona

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Wickenburg: Fred Carpenter, Chair	Guadalupe, Mark Johnson
Phoenix: Jack Tevlin, Vice-Chair	*Litchfield Park: Mike Cartsonis
ADOT: Chuck Eaton	*Maricopa County: Tom Buick
*Avondale: David Fitzhugh	*Mesa: Ron Krosting
Buckeye: Joe Blanton	Paradise Valley: Robert M. Cicarelli
Chandler: Patrice Kraus for Bryan Patterson	*Peoria: David Moody
*Fountain Hills: Randy Harrell	RPTA: Ken Driggs
*Gila Bend: Shane Dille	*Scottsdale: Peggy Carpenter
Gilbert: Tami Ryall	Surprise: Miryam Gutier
Glendale: Jim Book	Tempe: Mary O'Connor for Glenn Kephart
Goodyear: Don French	

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ATTENDING

*Regional Bicycle Task Force: Eric Iwersen, Tempe	Pedestrian Working Group: Reed Kempton, Maricopa County Dept of Transportation
*Street Committee: Don Herp, Phoenix	Telecommunications Advisory Group:
ITS Committee: Jim Book	Jim Hull

\* Members neither present nor represented by proxy.

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Anderson, MAG	Terry Johnson, City of Glendale
Paul Ward, MAG	Jim Creedon, Landry and Creedon, Phoenix
Kwi-Sung Kang, ADOT	Roger Herzog, MAG
Chris Plumb, MCDOT	Steve Jimenez, ADOT
Mike Sabatini, MCDOT	Steve Tate, MAG
Richard Moeur, ADOT	Bob Antilla, RPTA
Jason Stephens, MAG	Ellis Perl, City of Surprise
Ali Makarachi, City of Phoenix	Ken Hall, MAG

1. Call to Order

Mr. Fred Carpenter, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 1:39 p.m.

2. Approval of August 28, 2001 Minutes

Addressing the first order of business, Chairman Carpenter asked if there were any changes or amendments to the meeting minutes. Mr. Reed Kempton of MCDOT called the Committee's attention to page 6 of the August minutes, and addressed specific narrative pertaining to the annual conference for *Walking and Bicycling into the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. Mr. Kempton informed those in attendance that the conference would take place on October 3, 2001, in the City of Tempe, and not during the month of September, as specified within the August minutes. After this requested change was addressed, Mr. Jack Tevlin moved to approve the minutes as presented, with Mr. Jim Book seconding. The minutes were subsequently approved by unanimous voice vote.

3. Call to the Audience

Chairman Carpenter noted that he had not received any request to speak cards from the audience, and moved to the next item on the Agenda.

4. Transportation Manager's Report

Chairman Carpenter introduced MAG Transportation Manager, Mr. Eric Anderson, who gave the Transportation Manager's report. Mr. Anderson informed members of the Committee that he would be distributing a three-page handout which provided an overview of monetary allocations to the MAG Region as suggested by ADOT's Resource Advisory Allocation Committee (RAAC). Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the RAAC met on several occasions during the past three months to define revenue allocations for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, and that a total of approximately \$577 million would be available to the ADOT Program during the year of 2007. He stated that of the total ADOT Program amount, the MAG Region would receive approximately 40.5 percent, or about \$277 million. Of this amount, \$60 million would be allocated to the MAG Regional Freeway System, and approximately \$30 million would be allocated to lump sums. The net remainder of approximately \$186 million would be expended by ADOT within Maricopa County on various projects and activities.

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that Mr. Paul Ward, MAG Transportation Programming Manager, included a handout within the TRC packet that displayed FY 2007 Federal Project Requests by each individual government within the region. Mr. Anderson stated that during Mr. Ward's presentation, he would be providing an additional handout to the Committee that displays all requested projects by individual mode.

Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that the meeting of the Vision 21 Task Force, which was scheduled for September 11, 2001, was cancelled and will be re-scheduled for a date to be determined within the month of November. He stated that two of the three Vision 21 Task Force Committees have met over the past month, and that there was a Vision 21 Governance Committee scheduled for October 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Anderson then informed the Committee that MAG has received a total of three proposals for the MAG High Capacity Transit Study. Mr. Anderson said that there would be a Consultant Interview process on October 5<sup>th</sup> at the MAG offices in an effort to determine a qualified firm to complete the study. He then addressed the issue of the ADOT Transportation Enhancement Grant Program, and stated that the application review process for this year would be taking place from October 10<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> in the City of Bisbee, Arizona.

Mr. Anderson then distributed a handout of a Memorandum and Bicycle Facilities Survey that was addressed to the TRC by Mr. Pat McDermott, Chairman of the Regional Bicycle Task Force. The purpose of this handout was to inform the TRC of compiled survey results displaying existing municipal policies for bicycle plans and facilities, and to display a regional inventory of bicycle planning activities. There were no questions from members of the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's report.

5. Report on the MAG Freeway Program

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Eric Anderson of MAG who briefed the Committee on the MAG Freeway Program. Mr. Anderson stated that the final segment of the Pima Freeway would be completed by late spring, and that a segment of the Red Mountain Freeway from Country Club Avenue to Gilbert Road, located in the City of Mesa, would be completed by the end of the year. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that ADOT recently conducted two expert panel sessions in an effort to discuss the regional freeway program and the issue of revenue projections. He stated that there has been a lot of concern by ADOT and many other MAG-member agencies within the region concerning the possibility of decreasing revenues. He then addressed the HURF and the Maricopa County Regional Area Road Fund. Mr. Anderson said that although reductions have been modest, he informed the Committee that collections have decreased somewhat over the past several months. There were no questions from members of the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Anderson's report.

6. Regional Transportation Plan Update

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Roger Herzog, MAG Senior Project Manager, who provided the Committee with an update of activities associated with the MAG Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). Mr. Herzog informed the Committee that early in the RTP process, MAG conducted a total of five expert panel forums, which included panel sessions on the topics of demographics and social change; the new economy; environmental and resource issues; land use and urban development; and transportation and technology. Mr. Herzog informed members of the Committee that each of the expert panel sessions resulted in the completion of comprehensive issue papers, which directly correlated to each of the topics. He informed the Committee that as part of the early process, MAG conducted a series of 16 Focus Groups throughout the region in an effort to obtain public input. Mr. Herzog stated that the issue papers and the findings of the regional focus groups could be found online at the MAG Website.

Mr. Herzog then provided an update on current tasks affiliated with the plan, and informed those in attendance that the consultant working on the project would be completing a State of the Region report; identifying regional values, goals and objectives; and developing alternative growth scenarios and transportation concepts for the MAG Region. Mr. Herzog also stated that there have been a total of four identified alternative growth scenarios and transportation concepts, which include a base case, polycentric development pattern; an in-fill, urban revitalization pattern; an activity center development pattern; and an urban fringe growth scenario. He stated that there would be an upcoming agency workshop to review each of the four development scenarios and supporting transportation concepts, along with later public meetings to receive input on development and transportation options.

In addressing upcoming tasks, Mr. Herzog stated that the consultant would analyze development scenarios and transportation concepts; conduct public meetings; and develop policies, strategies and performance measures that will be utilized to guide Phase II of the planning process. There were no questions from members of the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Herzog's presentation.

7. Listing of Projects Submitted for Funding Consideration for FY 2007 from MAG Federal STP and CMAQ Funds

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Paul Ward of MAG, who addressed the Committee on the project submittal process for FY 2007 MAG federal funds. Mr. Ward provided the Committee with a handout that displayed the MAG FY 2007 Federal Project Requests by mode. Mr. Ward then informed the Committee that there would be an expected total of \$41.6 million in obligation authority (OA) funding that will likely be available through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for non-freeway projects, and an expected total of \$36 million in 5307 Formula

Transit Capital OA funding available from the Federal Transit Administration (FTA). Mr. Ward stated that MAG received a total of 136 project applications from MAG member agencies for FY 2007 MAG Federal funds, totaling an amount of approximately \$192 million.

Mr. Ward stated that there were a total of 73 project submittals for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funding, totaling approximately \$138 million; 41 project submittals for FTA Section 5307 funding, totaling approximately \$22 million; 19 project submittals for STP-MAG (Surface Transportation Program) funding, totaling approximately \$24 million; and 3 project submittals for FTA Section 5309 Discretionary funds, totaling \$8 million. Mr. Ward then provided a slide that displayed the categorical breakdown of applications by mode, and responded to several questions from members of the Committee.

Mr. Ward then provided a brief outline for the important dates in the application process. He stated that the Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee would review the CMAQ Emission Reduction estimates on October 4, 2001, and that each of the modal technical advisory committees would provide an initial review and prioritization of their committee's respective projects. Mr. Ward informed the Committee that on November 6, 2001, the TRC would review the modal recommendations, and provide guidance on the individual funding limits. After this process was complete, the projects would then go back to each of the individual modal committees for final review and confirmations. Mr. Ward said that following this process; the projects would go back to the TRC at the December meeting for final approval. Mr. Ward stated that the recommended projects would then be submitted to the Management Committee and to the MAG Regional Council at their January meetings. Mr. Ward then answered a number of questions regarding various funding sources for projects; eligibility issues and requirements for CMAQ and 5307 funding; air quality attainment; and the future status of CMAQ funds within the region if in fact attainment is achieved over time. There were no further questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Ward's presentation.

8. FY 2002 Transportation Stakeholder Early Input Process

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Jason Stephens, MAG Public Involvement Planner, who addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the early phase public input process for FY 2002. Mr. Stephens stated that the purpose of the Stakeholder process was to assist in facilitating the selection of projects for their incorporation into the MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the MAG Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). Mr. Stephens informed the Committee that meetings were conducted during the month of July at four locations throughout the MAG Region. These meetings allowed the public to provide input and address issues pertaining to the project identification process, and were conducted in the East Valley, West Valley, Central Valley, and at the Agency Based Stakeholder Meeting, which was conducted at the MAG offices. Mr. Stephens provided an overview of items

that were identified at the meetings, which highlighted needs and issues for bicycles, freeways, regional planning, transit, and services for transportation dependent populations.

Mr. Stephens informed the Committee that in addition to these meetings, there were also opportunities for the public to provide additional input at MAG Committee meetings, and at several other locations throughout the region. Several meetings that Mr. Stephens highlighted included the Grand Opening ceremony for the Pima Freeway/Loop 101, and several MAG at the Mall events, which were conducted on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Metro Center Mall, located in the City of Phoenix. There were no questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Stephen's report.

9. Proposal for Acceleration of State Route Number 85

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Chuck Eaton of ADOT, who provided the Committee with an overview of the acceleration process for State Route Number 85. Mr. Eaton informed the Committee that State Route Number 85 was the first of two projects that he would be presenting, with the other being the acceleration of the Wickenburg Bypass. Mr. Eaton said that the State Transportation Board met on September 21, 2001, and passed a resolution requesting ADOT Staff to consider the acceleration of the State Route Number 85 and Wickenburg Bypass projects. He informed the Committee that each of the proposals for acceleration is predicated on financial situations that must be reviewed and examined before progress on the amount of acceleration can be considered.

Mr. Eaton then called the Committee's attention to a map which indicated the location of State Route Number 85 and the proposed segments by dollar amount. Mr. Eaton said that for the purpose of effectively planning and scheduling improvements, ADOT divided the construction of the project into 12 segments. Segments 1 through 8 are currently programmed and amount to a total of \$73.5 million. Mr. Eaton stated that segments 9 through 12 and the contingency amount associated with the segments will cost about \$64.0 million, and have not been programmed into the ADOT Five-Year Highway Program. Mr. Eaton said that ADOT's proposal was to accelerate the program by issuing \$20.0 million of Grant Anticipation Notes (GANs) in 2003 and \$65.0 million of GANs in 2004. He said that this process would allow the last construction projects located along State Route Number 85 to be initiated by 2005.

Mr. Eaton provided an overview of the GANS process, and stated that the process is essentially one that acts as a financing mechanism, allowing for the issuance of debt against future federal transportation funds that are received by ADOT. He informed the Committee that ADOT could issue up to \$900 million in GANS, of which, approximately half of this amount could be issued within Maricopa County. Discussion followed, and Mr. Eric Anderson stated that Maricopa County presently has outstanding GANS for the completion of the Regional Freeway Program and the Superstition Freeway widening

project. Mr. Anderson informed the Committee that if this proposal were approved, then MAG would program over \$16.0 million a year between the years of 2007 and 2010 for completion of the project. Discussion followed, and there were a number of questions from the Committee requiring clarification of the GANS process, and what impacts that the acceleration of State Route Number 85 would have on other future construction projects within Maricopa County. Mr. Eaton answered numerous questions pertaining to the GANS process, and stated that his primary purpose for presenting the item before the Committee was to inform them of what was going on in terms of proposed accelerations. Mr. Anderson stated that ADOT would like to include this project within the Five-Year Highway Program for preliminary review, but that a decision was not required at this particular time. It was agreed that this item would be discussed again in the future. There were no further questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Eaton's presentation.

10. Proposal to Accelerate the Interim Wickenburg Bypass

Addressing the next order of business, Chairman Carpenter introduced Mr. Chuck Eaton of ADOT, who provided the Committee with an overview of the acceleration process for the Wickenburg Bypass. Mr. Eaton informed the Committee that the estimated project cost was approximately \$20.0 million, and that the bypass was already included in the MAG TIP and funded from the ADOT Five-Year Construction Program. He informed the Committee that the intent of the project was to improve safety by constructing a bypass around the City of Wickenburg, thereby eliminating the need for truck traffic to utilize the downtown areas of the community. He stated that GANS would be issued to allow the project to be advanced by a period of one year.

Mr. Eaton called the Committee's attention to a map in the front of the room, and presented four alternative concepts for development of the Wickenburg Bypass. He informed the Committee that a public meeting would be conducted on November 7, 2001, in an effort to present the four alternative concepts to the public and to receive comment. He informed the Committee that a draft report on the project would be completed by the end of December, and that the entire process would be finalized with the approval of a final development concept by the early part of next year. Chairman Carpenter stated that the Committee would delay action on the items presented by Mr. Eaton, until a future meeting. There were no questions from the Committee, and this concluded Mr. Eaton's report.

11. Next Meeting Date

Mr. Anderson informed members in attendance that the MAG-sponsored Western States Intermodal Planning Group Conference would be taking place from September 30<sup>th</sup> to October 2<sup>nd</sup> in the City of Phoenix. Mr. Anderson provided a brief overview of the individuals that would be speaking at the conference, and addressed the conference

proceedings. Chairman Carpenter informed the Committee that the next meeting of the Committee would take place on November 6, 2001. There being no further business, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 2:55 p.m.